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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7420**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1592

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 9, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Nurses in the Department of Correction.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Ruppel

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to enter into a contract for nursing services using the "request for proposals" process if the DOC determines that it is more cost effective to enter into a contract than to provide nursing services with nurses who are state employees. The bill provides that individuals who are currently employed by the DOC as nurses may keep the jobs they hold.

**Effective Date:** July 1 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The DOC would have a minimal increase in administrative costs to conduct the study of nursing services in correctional facilities required under the bill. It is estimated that these costs could be absorbed in the current resources of the DOC. The bill would provide cost savings to the extent that the DOC would determine the least expensive method of providing nursing services and use that method.

***Background Information:*** DOC has 456 authorized nursing positions, but not all of these positions are funded. Of the 363 filled state positions, 181 are licensed practical nurses and 182 are registered nurses. DOC hires nurses through State Personnel Recruiting, through a staffing agency, and through the DOC health care provider, Prison Health Services (PHS). PHS is contracted to administer health care throughout the DOC facilities.

Fourteen DOC facilities used 113 full-time equivalents of nursing from a staffing agency in November 2004. One of those facilities, the Reception Diagnostic Center, has now filled all vacant nursing positions. It is expected that this change will reduce the DOC's use of nurses from a staffing agency overall.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Tim Brown, Department of Correction.

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